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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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2292	7590	03/18/2004	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			POKRZYWA, JOSEPH R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2622	

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/502,010	Applicant(s) ROOSEN ET AL.	
	Examiner Joseph R. Pokrzywa	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 February 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 February 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/5-11-00</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Preliminary Amendment

1. Applicant's preliminary amendment was received on 2/11/00, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1-39** are pending.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on 5/11/00 have been considered by the examiner (see attached PTO-1449).

Drawings

4. The drawings received on 2/11/00 are acceptable by the examiner.

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Claim Objections

5. **Claims 17 and 24** are objected to because of the following informalities:

in **claim 17**, line 4, "the digital environment" should read "a digital environment"; and

in **claim 24**, line 8, "with the aid" should read "with aid", having the word "the"

removed.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. **Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-17, 19, 21-24, 26, 28-31, and 33-39** are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Uda *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,933,580).

Regarding **claim 1**, Uda discloses a system (see Fig. 1) for generating digitized documents for a digital environment comprising at least one scanner (scanners 103a and 103b) provided with a local operator control unit (see Fig. 3, scanner CPU 302, which controls the operation of the scanner 103, column 5, lines 12 through 29), a management unit (scanner printer server 102) operatively connected to the scanner (see Figs. 1 and 2) and including means for receiving, from the digital environment, a request for a digitized document (prescan packet, being received at the scanner printer server 102, see Fig. 14, column 11, lines 1 through 8),

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means for communicating a request for a digitized document to the scanner (prescan command, column 11, lines 9 through 11), means for receiving from the scanner an acceptance of a request selected via the local operator control unit (OK packet, column 11, lines 12 through 18, wherein the CPU 302 controls the setting of the parameters to image reading section 305, with the OK packet being returned when the parameters are correctly set. Further, in column 19, lines 6 through 47, the CPU 302 only allows a copying operation when not remotely in use for scanning or printing, therein having a selection of when an acceptance of a request for scanning can occur), and means whereby, in response to the acceptance, a scan order for generation of the digitized document requested in the selected request is allocated to the scanner which sent the acceptance (column 11, line 19 through column 12, line 22).

Regarding *claim 3*, Uda discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the management unit is also provided with means for checking whether the requested digitized document is already available in a required digital form in a connected database (column 12, lines 1 through 16, and column 20, line 11 through column 21, line 18).

Regarding *claim 5*, Uda discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the request for a digitized document (prescan packet) also contains a specification of required properties and format of the document (column 11, lines 1 through 9).

Regarding *claim 6*, Uda discloses the system discussed above in claim 5, and further teaches that the management unit (scanner printer server 102), when allocating the scan order, automatically transmits to the accepting first scanner the specification associated with the relevant request (column 11, line 8 through column 12, line 22, and column 20, lines 24 through 41).

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Regarding **claim 7**, Uda discloses the system discussed above in claim 5, and further teaches that the management unit (scanner printer server 102) simultaneously with indicating that a request has been received for a digitized document automatically transmits to applicable scanners the specification associated with the request (column 11, line 8 through column 12, line 22, and column 20, lines 24 through 41).

Regarding **claim 8**, Uda discloses the system discussed above in claim 6, and further teaches that the scanner is provided with means for automatically adjusting the scanning process to generate the required document in accordance with the specification in the request after allocation of the scan order (column 11, line 8 through column 12, line 22, and column 20, lines 24 through 41).

Regarding **claim 10**, Uda discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the request for a digitized document (prescan packet) also contains a precondition for processing (column 11, lines 1 through 31).

Regarding **claim 11**, Uda discloses the system discussed above in claim 10, and further teaches that the precondition is used by the management unit (scanner printer server 102) as a contributory factor in indicating the received requests for a digitized document (column 11, lines 1 through 43).

Regarding **claim 12**, Uda discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the scanner is provided with a display (operation panel 306) and with means for indicating thereon a request for a digitized document (column 18, line 63 through column 19, line 44).

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Regarding *claim 13*, Uda discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the management unit (scanner printer server 102) is provided with means for indicating a request for a digitized document in the form of a signal perceptible to an operator (column 11, lines 35 through 64, and column 18, line 63 through column 19, line 44).

Regarding *claim 14*, Uda discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the management unit (scanner printer server 102) is provided with means for indicating a request for a digitized document only to scanners which are capable of executing a scanning process in accordance with the request (column 4, lines 50 through 55, and column 20, line 65 through column 21, line 11).

Regarding *claim 15*, Uda discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the management unit (scanner printer server 102) is provided with means for automatically dividing a first request for a digitized document into a plurality of second requests with different specifications (column 11, lines 21 through 43, being data packets corresponding to the prescan packet).

Regarding *claim 16*, Uda discloses the system discussed above in claim 15, and further teaches that the management unit (scanner printer server 102) is provided with means for assembling digitized partial documents generated in response to the second requests, to form a digitized document corresponding to the first request (column 11, line 62 through column 12, line 19, and column 20, lines 11 through 41, being a plurality of combined data packets corresponding to the scan packet, with the scan packet being in response to the data packets transmitted in response to the prescan packet).

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Regarding *claim 17*, Uda discloses a management unit for managing a system for generating digitized documents having at least one scanner (scanners 103a and 103b) provided with a local operator control unit (see Fig. 3, scanner CPU 302, which controls the operation of the components of the scanner 103, as column 5, lines 12 through 29), comprising means for receiving, from the digital environment, a request for a digitized document (prescan packet, being received at the scanner printer server 102, see Fig. 14, column 11, lines 1 through 8), means for communicating a request for a digitized document to the scanner (prescan command, column 11, lines 9 through 11), means for receiving from the scanner an acceptance of a request selected via the local operator control unit (OK packet, column 11, lines 12 through 18, wherein the CPU 302 controls the setting of the parameters to image reading section 305, with the OK packet being returned when the parameters are correctly set. Further, in column 19, lines 6 through 47, the CPU 302 only allows a copying operation when not remotely in use for scanning or printing, therein having a selection of when an acceptance of a request for scanning can occur), and means whereby, in response to the acceptance, a scan order for generation of the digitized document requested in the selected request is allocated to the scanner which sent the acceptance (column 11, line 19 through column 12, line 22).

Regarding *claim 19*, Uda discloses the management unit discussed above in claim 17, and further teaches of means for checking whether the requested digitized document is already available in a required digital form in a connected database (column 12, lines 1 through 16, and column 20, line 11 through column 21, line 18).

Regarding *claim 21*, Uda discloses the management unit discussed above in claim 17, and further teaches of means for indicating a request for a digitized document only to scanners

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which are capable of executing a scanning process in accordance with the request (column 4, lines 50 through 55, and column 20, line 65 through column 21, line 11).

Regarding *claim 22*, Uda discloses the management unit discussed above in claim 17, and further teaches of means for automatically dividing a first request for a digitized document into a plurality of second requests with different specifications (column 11, lines 21 through 43, being data packets corresponding to the prescan packet).

Regarding *claim 23*, Uda discloses the management unit discussed above in claim 22, and further teaches of means for assembling digitized partial documents generated in response to the second requests, to form a digitized document corresponding to the first request (column 11, line 62 through column 12, line 19, and column 20, lines 11 through 41, being a plurality of combined data packets corresponding to the scan packet, with the scan packet being in response to the data packets transmitted in response to the prescan packet).

Regarding *claim 24*, Uda discloses a method of making digitized documents available to a digital environment (see Figs. 1 and 14), comprising receiving a request for a digitized document from the digital environment in a central management unit (prescan packet, being received at the scanner printer server 102, see Fig. 14, column 11, lines 1 through 8), automatically indicating from the central management unit to one or more connected scanners (scanners 103a and 103b) that a request for a digitized document has been received (prescan command, column 11, lines 9 through 11), selecting and accepting the request with the aid of local operator control means (see Fig. 3, scanner CPU 302, which controls the operation of the components of the scanner 103, as column 5, lines 12 through 29) of a first scanner (OK packet, column 11, lines 12 through 18, wherein the CPU 302 controls the setting of the parameters to

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image reading section 305, with the OK packet being returned when the parameters are correctly set. Further, in column 19, lines 6 through 47, the CPU 302 only allows a copying operation when not remotely in use for scanning or printing, therein having a selection of when an acceptance of a request for scanning can occur), in response to acceptance of the request, automatically allocating a scan order by the central management unit to the accepting first scanner for generation of the digitized document requested in the request (column 11, line 19 through column 12, line 22), and executing the scan order on the first scanner (column 11, line 19 through column 12, line 22, and column 20, lines 24 through 41).

Regarding *claim 26*, Uda discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that in response to the reception of the request for a digitized document a check is first made whether the requested digitized document is already available in a required digital form in a connected database (column 12, lines 1 through 16, and column 20, line 11 through column 21, line 18).

Regarding *claim 28*, Uda discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that the request for a digitized document (prescan packet) also contains a specification of required properties and format of the document (column 11, lines 1 through 9).

Regarding *claim 29*, Uda discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that on allocation of the scan order the specification belonging to the associated request is automatically transmitted from the central management unit to the accepting first scanner (column 11, line 8 through column 12, line 22, and column 20, lines 24 through 41).

Regarding *claim 30*, Uda discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that simultaneously with indicating that the request for a digitized document has been

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requested the specification belonging to the request is automatically transmitted to applicable scanners (column 11, line 8 through column 12, line 22, and column 20, lines 24 through 41).

Regarding *claim 31*, Uda discloses the method discussed above in claim 29, and further teaches that after allocation of a scan order the scanning process for generating the required digitized document on the first scanner is automatically adjusted in accordance with the specification in the request (column 11, line 8 through column 12, line 22, and column 20, lines 24 through 41).

Regarding *claim 33*, Uda discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that the request for a digitized document (prescan packet) also contains a precondition for processing (column 11, lines 1 through 31).

Regarding *claim 34*, Uda discloses the method discussed above in claim 33, and further teaches that the precondition is used by the management unit (scanner printer server 102) as a contributory factor in indicating the received requests for a digitized document (column 11, lines 1 through 43).

Regarding *claim 35*, Uda discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that the indication that the request for a digitized document has been received is made in the form of a signal perceptible to an operator (column 11, lines 35 through 64, and column 18, line 63 through column 19, line 44).

Regarding *claim 36*, Uda discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that the indication that the request for a digitized document has been received is made in the form of a message on a display (operation panel 306) on a scanner (column 18, line 63 through column 19, line 44).

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Regarding **claim 37**, Uda discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that the request for a digitized document is indicated only at scanners which are capable of executing a scanning process in accordance with the request (column 4, lines 50 through 55, and column 20, line 65 through column 21, line 11).

Regarding **claim 38**, Uda discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches of dividing a first request for a digitized document into a plurality of second requests with different specifications (column 11, lines 21 through 43, being data packets corresponding to the prescan packet).

Regarding **claim 39**, Uda discloses the method discussed above in claim 38, and further teaches that the central management unit (scanner printer server 102) assembles digitized part-documents generated in response to the second requests, to form a digitized document corresponding to the first request (column 11, line 62 through column 12, line 19, and column 20, lines 11 through 41, being a plurality of combined data packets corresponding to the scan packet, with the scan packet being in response to the data packets transmitted in response to the prescan packet).

8. **Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 17, 18, 20, 24, 25, and 27-36** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakai *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,946,457).

Regarding **claim 1**, Nakai discloses a system for generating digitized documents for a digital environment (see abstract) comprising at least one scanner (digital copying machines 91-93, and scanner 94, column 13, line 23 through column 14, line 13) provided with a local operator control unit (see Fig. 5), a management unit operatively connected to the scanner (host

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computer 96, see Fig. 11) and including means for receiving, from the digital environment, a request for a digitized document (received data in steps S111 and S112 in Fig. 27, column 28, lines 11 through 29, having a request to perform a desired image processing function), means for communicating a request for a digitized document to the scanner (returned data to transmitting machine, which includes a request for re-transmission, steps S115-S119 in Fig. 27, column 28, line 30 through column 29, line 18), means for receiving from the scanner an acceptance of a request selected via the local operator control unit ("yes" in step S122 in Fig. 27, and column 29, lines 19 through 27, being a retransmitted image), and means whereby, in response to the acceptance, a scan order for generation of the digitized document requested in the selected request is allocated to the scanner which sent the acceptance (column 29, lines 22 through 51, being the generated image data after performing the requested image processing function).

Regarding *claim 2*, Nakai discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the receiving means includes means for receiving from a first scanner an inquiry concerning information regarding a request (column 27, line 63 through column 28, line 29), means for offering the requested information (column 28, line 30 through column 29, line 4), and means for receiving from the first scanner an acceptance of a request selected with the aid of the local operator control means of the first scanner (column 29, lines 1 through 43).

Regarding *claim 4*, Nakai discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the allocation means, when allocating the scan order, prevents other scanners from accepting the request concerned for a digitized document (column 28, lines 42 through 44, and column 29, lines 18 through 29, wherein the allocated scan order is sent to the digital copying

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machine that made the request for the translation process, therein preventing other copying machines from accepting the request).

Regarding *claim 5*, Nakai discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the request for a digitized document also contains a specification of required properties and format of the document (see Tables 1 and 2, column 12, line 29 through column 13, line 13, and column 15, line 39 through column 16, line 16).

Regarding *claim 6*, Nakai discloses the system discussed above in claim 5, and further teaches that the management unit, when allocating the scan order, automatically transmits to the accepting first scanner the specification associated with the relevant request (column 28, line 11 through column 29, line 43).

Regarding *claim 7*, Nakai discloses the system discussed above in claim 5, and further teaches that the management unit simultaneously with indicating that a request has been received for a digitized document automatically transmits to applicable scanners the specification associated with the request (column 28, lines 11 through 65).

Regarding *claim 8*, Nakai discloses the system discussed above in claim 6, and further teaches that the scanner is provided with means for automatically adjusting the scanning process to generate the required document in accordance with the specification in the request after allocation of the scan order (column 28, line 58 through column 30, line 19).

Regarding *claim 9*, Nakai discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the request for a digitized document also contains a message to an operator of the scanner (returned data to transmitting machine, which includes a request for re-transmission, steps S115-S119 in Fig. 27, column 28, line 30 through column 29, line 18, see Figs. 28a-28c).

Regarding *claim 10*, Nakai discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the request for a digitized document also contains a precondition for processing (see Tables 1 and 2, column 12, line 29 through column 13, line 13, column 15, line 39 through column 16, line 16, and column 28, line 11 through 41).

Regarding *claim 11*, Nakai discloses the system discussed above in claim 10, and further teaches that the precondition is used by the management unit as a contributory factor in indicating the received requests for a digitized document (column 28, lines 20 through 65).

Regarding *claim 12*, Nakai discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the scanner is provided with a display (see Figs. 5, and 28a-28c) and with means for indicating thereon a request for a digitized document (column 28, line 58 through column 29, line 22).

Regarding *claim 13*, Nakai discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the management unit is provided with means for indicating a request for a digitized document in the form of a signal perceptible to an operator (column 28, line 58 through column 29, line 22).

Regarding *claim 17*, Nakai discloses a management unit (host computer 96, see Fig. 11) for managing a system for generating digitized documents (see abstract) having at least one scanner (digital copying machines 91-93, and scanner 94, column 13, line 23 through column 14, line 13) provided with a local operator control unit (see Fig. 5), comprising means for receiving, from a digital environment, a request for a digitized document (received data in steps S111 and S112 in Fig. 27, column 28, lines 11 through 29, having a request to perform a desired image processing function), means for communicating a request for a digitized document to the scanner

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(returned data to transmitting machine, which includes a request for re-transmission, steps S115-S119 in Fig. 27, column 28, line 30 through column 29, line 18), means for receiving from the scanner an acceptance of a request selected via the local operator control unit ("yes" in step S122 in Fig. 27, and column 29, lines 19 through 27, being a retransmitted image), and means whereby, in response to the acceptance, a scan order for generation of the digitized document requested in the selected request is allocated to the scanner which sent the acceptance (column 29, lines 22 through 51, being the generated image data after performing the requested image processing function).

Regarding *claim 18*, Nakai discloses the management unit discussed above in claim 17, and further teaches that the receiving means includes means for receiving from a first scanner an inquiry concerning information regarding a request (column 27, line 63 through column 28, line 29), means for offering the requested information (column 28, line 30 through column 29, line 4), and means for receiving from the first scanner an acceptance of a request selected with the aid of the local operator control means of the first scanner (column 29, lines 1 through 43).

Regarding *claim 20*, Nakai discloses the management unit discussed above in claim 17, and further teaches that the allocation means, when allocating the scan order, prevents other scanners from accepting the request concerned for a digitized document (column 28, lines 42 through 44, and column 29, lines 18 through 29, wherein the allocated scan order is sent to the digital copying machine that made the request for the translation process, therein preventing other copying machines from accepting the request).

Regarding *claim 24*, Nakai discloses a method for making digitized documents available to a digital environment (see abstract) comprising receiving a request for a digitized document

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from the digital environment in a central management unit (received data in steps S111 and S112 at the host computer 96, seen in Figs. 11 and 27, and column 28, lines 11 through 29, having a request to perform a desired image processing function), automatically indicating from the central management unit to one or more connected scanners (digital copying machines 91-93, and scanner 94, column 13, line 23 through column 14, line 13) that a means for communicating a request for a digitized document has been received (returned data to transmitting machine, which includes a request for re-transmission, steps S115-S119 in Fig. 27, column 28, line 30 through column 29, line 18), selecting and accepting the request with aid of local operator control means of a first scanner ("yes" in step S122 in Fig. 27, and column 29, lines 19 through 27, being a retransmitted image), in response to acceptance of the request, automatically allocating a scan order by the central management unit to the accepting first scanner for generation of the digitized document requested in the request (column 29, lines 22 through 51, being the generated image data after performing the requested image processing function), and executing the scan order on the first scanner (column 29, lines 26 through 43).

Regarding *claim 25*, Nakai discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that the step of selecting and accepting a request comprises inquiring, with the aid of the local operator control means of the first scanner, for information concerning the request (column 27, line 63 through column 28, line 29), offering the requested information by the central management unit (column 28, line 30 through column 29, line 4), selecting a request with the aid of the local operator control means of the first scanner (column 29, lines 1 through 22), and sending an acceptance of the selected request from the first scanner to the central management unit (column 29, lines 18 through 43).

Regarding *claim 27*, Nakai discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that in allocating the scan order, other scanners are prevented from accepting the relevant request for a digitized document (column 28, lines 42 through 44, and column 29, lines 18 through 29, wherein the allocated scan order is sent to the digital copying machine that made the request for the translation process, therein preventing other copying machines from accepting the request).

Regarding *claim 28*, Nakai discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that the request for a digitized document also contains a specification of required properties and format of the document (see Tables 1 and 2, column 12, line 29 through column 13, line 13, and column 15, line 39 through column 16, line 16).

Regarding *claim 29*, Nakai discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that on allocation of the scan order the specification belonging to the associated request is automatically transmitted from the central management unit to the accepting first scanner (column 28, line 11 through column 29, line 43).

Regarding *claim 30*, Nakai discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that simultaneously with indicating that the request for a digitized document has been requested the specification belonging to the request is automatically transmitted to applicable scanners (column 28, lines 11 through 65).

Regarding *claim 31*, Nakai discloses the method discussed above in claim 29, and further teaches that after allocation of a scan order the scanning process for generating the required digitized document on the first scanner is automatically adjusted in accordance with the specification in the request (column 28, line 58 through column 30, line 19).

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Regarding **claim 32**, Nakai discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that the request for a digitized document also contains a message to an operator of the scanner (returned data to transmitting machine, which includes a request for re-transmission, steps S115-S119 in Fig. 27, column 28, line 30 through column 29, line 18, see Figs. 28a-28c).

Regarding **claim 33**, Nakai discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that the request for a digitized document also contains a precondition for processing (see Tables 1 and 2, column 12, line 29 through column 13, line 13, column 15, line 39 through column 16, line 16, and column 28, line 11 through 41).

Regarding **claim 34**, Nakai discloses the method discussed above in claim 33, and further teaches that the precondition is used by the management unit as a contributory factor in indicating the received requests for a digitized document (column 28, lines 20 through 65).

Regarding **claim 35**, Nakai discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that the indication that the request for a digitized document has been received is made in the form of a signal perceptible to an operator (column 28, line 58 through column 29, line 22).

Regarding **claim 36**, Nakai discloses the method discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that the indication that the request for a digitized document has been received is made in the form of a message on a display (see Figs. 5, and 28a-28c) on a scanner (column 28, line 58 through column 29, line 22).

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Toda (U.S. Patent Number 6,256,107) discloses a system for allocating priority to image forming devices;

Ogawa *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,115,739) discloses a system for reading image data using a plurality of scanners, and transferring the data to a management unit;

Sakai *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,935,217) discloses a network system having a plurality of image processing apparatuses being connected; and

Maniwa *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,768,483) discloses a network system of setting scanning conditions of a copier.

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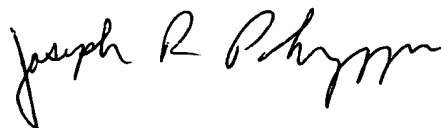
Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (703) 305-0146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joseph R. Pokrzywa
Examiner
Art Unit 2622



jrp